Weekly Compilation of

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Editor's Note: The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, December 20, 2002

Statement on the Resignation of Henry Kissinger as Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

December 13, 2002

It is with regret that I accept Dr. Kissinger's decision to step down as Chairman of the national commission to investigate the events of September 11, 2001, and the years that led up to that event.

As I stated at the time of his appointment, Dr. Kissinger is one our Nation's most accomplished and respected public servants. I thank him for his willingness to consider serving his country once again. His chairmanship would have provided the insights and analysis the Government needs to understand the methods of our enemies and the nature of the threats we face.

My administration will work quickly to select a new Chairman whose mission will be to uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September 11, even as we act on what we have learned so far to better protect and defend America.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Northern Ireland

December 13, 2002

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am transmitting to you a report prepared by my Administration as required by section 701(d) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228).

The enclosed report broadly addresses policing reform and human rights in Northern Ireland. It provides information on topics of interest outlined by the Congress, including details on paramilitary decommissioning, and the manner in which U.S. law enforcement training for members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is being administered.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 14, 2002

Good morning. This week I introduced new members of my economic team. For the Secretary of the Treasury, I have submitted the name of John Snow, a respected business leader and economist who shares my commitment to faster growth and more new jobs for American workers. I have nominated Bill Donaldson to serve as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to vigorously enforce the laws against corporate corruption. And here at the White House, Steve Friedman will be the Director of the National Economic Council, giving me daily advice on our economy.

These leaders will assume their duties at an important moment for our economy. There are many good signs. Inflation is firmly under control, which means food, clothing, and other necessities are more affordable. Mortgage interest rates remain at historic lows, helping more Americans become homeowners. And growth has returned to the American economy.

Yet we also face specific challenges that could slow the recovery and limit future growth. Many Americans have very little money left over after taxes. Some struggle under a weight of debt that makes it difficult to save for retirement. Investor confidence

needs to be strengthened in practical ways. And the Nation's rate of unemployment is now 6 percent—and significantly higher in some parts of America. We will not rest until every person in America who wants to work can find a job.

The new Congress that convenes next month will have a responsibility to address these challenges, and I will be making specific proposals to increase the momentum of economic recovery through a jobs and growth package.

The last Congress also left behind some unfinished business. The House and Senate passed different bills extending unemployment benefits. However, no final bill was sent to me extending unemployment benefits for about 750,000 Americans whose benefits will expire on December the 28th. These Americans rely on their unemployment benefits to pay for the mortgage or rent, food, and other critical bills. They need our assistance in these difficult times, and we cannot let them down.

I have shared these concerns with leaders of the House and the Senate, and they understand the need for early action. When our legislators return to the Capitol, I ask them to make the extension of unemployment benefits a first order of business. And the benefits they approve should be retroactive, so that people who lose their benefits this month will be paid in full. I've also directed the Department of Labor to work with the States to minimize any delay in helping these Americans once Congress has acted and extended these benefits.

I look forward to working with Members of both parties in the new Congress on our economic challenges. We must help our fellow citizens who have lost their jobs. And we must create an environment in which businesses, especially small businesses, can grow and generate the new jobs our country needs.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:02 a.m. on December 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Appointment of Thomas H. Kean as Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

December 16, 2002

I am pleased to announce that Thomas H. Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and president of Drew University in New Jersey, will serve as Chairman of the national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the events that led up to it.

Tom Kean is a leader respected for his integrity, fairness, and good judgment. I am confident he will work to make the Commission's investigation thorough. It is important that we uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September 11th.

Governor Kean served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race from 1997 to 1998, served as Vice Chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in 1995, and led the U.S. delegation to the World Conference on Education for All in Thailand in 1990.

Statement on the Resignation of Joe M. Allbaugh as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

December 16, 2002

For nearly 2 years as Director of FEMA, Joe Allbaugh has served America with ability, courage, and compassion. He will continue to shepherd FEMA through its transition into the Department of Homeland Security.

After the attacks on our country, America came to know Joe as I do: He is a steady leader, a calm presence, and man who inspires confidence in a time of crisis. I have trusted Joe in a variety of positions throughout my public life, and he has always met the highest standards of service and integrity. Laura and I wish Joe the very best in all that he does in the future.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Negara Brunei Darussalam

December 16, 2002

President Bush and His Majesty, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, today pledged to reinforce the friendship between the peoples of the United States and of Brunei Darussalam, and to pursue our common interests of peace, prosperity, and stability in Southeast Asia.

The two leaders recommitted themselves to the global war on terror, declaring terrorism a threat to all civilized societies and the exploitation of religion to promote violence an abomination. President Bush and His Majesty reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation in combating terrorism in a comprehensive manner and affirmed the importance of working with multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. The two leaders also recognized the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding amongst the diverse cultures, societies, and religions.

The President praised Brunei Darussalam's long tradition of religious tolerance and cooperation with its neighbors, friends, and partners. In the wake of the tragic Bali bombings, the President and His Majesty agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation to identify and destroy terrorist networks; exchange information and intelligence about terrorists and terrorist organizations; disrupt the movement of terrorists and the tools of terror across international borders; and cut off sources of funding for terrorist acts, especially in Southeast Asia. His Majesty welcomed President Bush's offer to assist Brunei Darussalam in building its capacity to counter terrorism.

The President welcomed the recent accession of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yand Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The President and His Majesty also look forward to cooperating with other ASEAN partners in supporting the proposed regional counterterrorism center in Malaysia.

President Bush expressed appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's contribution toward the humanitarian relief efforts and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Such contributions demonstrate the compassion of the Government and people of Brunei in its commitment to build a peaceful, prosperous Afghanistan.

The President and His Majesty welcomed the growing, mutually beneficial bilateral defense relationship between the United States and Brunei Darussalam, and reaffirmed their desire to see such cooperation increase.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of a strong and united ASEAN, and President Bush offered all appropriate assistance to support capacity-building within ASEAN. President Bush praised Brunei Darussalam's strong leadership role in ASEAN in recent years, and reaffirmed our commitment to expand U.S. engagement with ASEAN as a pillar of stability in Southeast Asia. The two leaders agreed on the importance of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and APEC in promoting regional stability and prosperity. The President welcomed Brunei Darussalam's support for our Secure Trade in the APEC Region, or "STAR," initiative, aimed at transforming the movement of goods and people to increase both security and economic competitiveness. The President pledged to work with the Government of Brunei Darussalam to assist Brunei Darussalam in building its own capacity to provide increased border and customs security and efficiency.

His Majesty welcomed President Bush's Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative, or "EAI," as an initiative designed to promote increased investment, economic growth, and free trade between the United States and ASEAN countries. The President and His Majesty welcomed the signing of a bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). This TIFA will provide the foundation for increased trade and economic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United States as both economies adapt to the economic challenges of the 21st century. The two sides agreed to coordinate their efforts bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally, including working together to complete successfully the Doha Development Agenda.

To further deepen understanding between our two nations, the President and His Majesty have pledged to increase educational opportunities for Bruneian students, government officials, and other professionals to study and train in the United States. Toward this end, the President announced the establishment of a Fulbright Program in Brunei.

The President and His Majesty also reiterated their mutual commitment to advance the rule of law and to promote respect for human rights, including freedom of religion, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and cherished by the people of both the United States and Brunei Darussalam.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Proclamation 7635—Wright Brothers Day, 2002

December 16, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have contributed to important technological breakthroughs that have improved the quality of life for countless individuals. On December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first successfully sustained and controlled flight with a heavier-than-air, engine-powered aircraft. In the 99 years since that revolutionary event, mankind has flown across oceans, broken the sound barrier, launched satellites, and landed on the moon. On Wright Brothers Day, we celebrate the vision and determination of these innovators whose remarkable achievements changed the world forever.

The first successful powered flight on the morning of December 17, 1903, lasted only 12 seconds and spanned approximately 120 feet; but the Wright brothers' ideas and design led to countless advances in aviation. Between 1899 and 1905, they constructed a total of seven aircraft, and through this extensive research and experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright established the foundation of modern aeronautics.

The airplane has played a critical role in improving our national defense, our economy, and our Nation. It has enabled trade to thrive, strengthened our economic security, and fostered friendship and goodwill throughout the world. Today, Americans rely on airplanes to deliver emergency treatment to the sick or injured, bring families together, and link us to every corner of the globe.

The United States remains committed to supporting progress in technology that secures air travel, enhances our national defense, and ensures the success and prosperity of our country. Inspired by the extraordinary accomplishments of the Wright brothers, our Nation will continue to explore new ideas, improve technology, and work for a brighter future for all.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143) as amended, has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 17, 2002, as Wright Brothers Day. Through their courage and willingness to take risks, the Wright brothers reflect the true American character.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 19.

Remarks at the White House Children's Story Hour

December 17, 2002

Students. Merry Christmas.

The President. Thank you. Third graders?

Students. Yes.

The President. Good. Where's your teachers? Thank you for teaching. Welcome. We're glad you're here. This is the Roosevelt Room in the White House.

The First Lady. And this painting behind us is Teddy Roosevelt, up above.

The President. He was one of our Presidents.

The First Lady. He was one of our Presidents 100 years ago—100 years ago.

The President. Where's Burnie Elementary? Welcome.

Saint Agnes? Glad you all are here. Thanks for coming.

Laura and I thought we'd read a Christmas story to you, if that's okay.

Students. Yes.

The President. Glad you accepted it. [*Laughter*] That's what's going to happen.

Have you heard the one that starts with, "'Twas the night before Christmas"?

Students. Yes.

The President. And what comes next?

Students. I can't see it.

The President. Oh, I'm sorry. "'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house"——

The First Lady. "Not a creature was stirring"——

The President. ——"not even a mouse."

The First Lady. Mouse.

The President. Nobody was stirring. It was kind of quiet, wasn't it? You had better read that, because I can't see it.

The First Lady. [*Laughter*] "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds."

Don't they look snug?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. "While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads." What does that mean? Do you know what sugar plums are?

Students. No.

The First Lady. Candy. So they're thinking maybe their stockings will have candy in them, don't they?

The President. You can't see? You come right over here.

The First Lady. "And ma in her kerchief, and I in my cap had just settled down for a long winter's nap." Do you all want to come up closer here?

The President. It may be easier to see.

The First Lady. Yes. Come on over here so you can see. These are really beautiful pictures, if you can see close.

"When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters, threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, gave a luster of midday to the objects below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear"—do you all know?

Students. Reindeer.

The First Lady. "A miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer."

The President. Yes.

The First Lady. "With a little old man so jolly and quick, I knew in a moment it must be"——

Students. Saint Nick.

The First Lady. "Saint Nick." Do you like these pictures?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. "More rapid than eagles, the coursers they came, and he whistled and shouted and called them by name."

Do you know the name of the reindeers? "Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen." See all these reindeer?

The President. Anybody in this room named Blitzen? [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. Do you all remember all these names? "Dasher and Dancer, and Comet and Cupid"——

Student. And Rudolph.

The First Lady. And Rudolph. That's right.

The President. Right.

The First Lady. He's not in this story, though. He came later.

"To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall! Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!

"As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, so up to the housetop the coursers they flew, with a sleigh full of toys, and Saint Nicholas, too."

This is pretty. You notice who is in every picture—well, not every one.

"And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, down the chimney he came with a bound.

"He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot. And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler just about to open his pack."

See all those toys?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. "His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry. His droll little mouth was drawn up in a bow, and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow."

Is this what we all think Santa Claus looks like?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. With a white beard?

Students. Yes.

The First Lady. And a nose like a cherry?

"The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a round little belly that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread."

The President. Pretty exciting so far, isn't it? [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. "He spoke not a word but went straight to work and filled all the stockings, and then he turned with a jerk."

And what's he going to do now? How's he going to get out? Back up the chimney, isn't he?

"And laying his finger aside of his nose and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose."

The President. That's kind of hard to do. [*Laughter*] Have you ever tried to crawl up your chimney?

Students. No.

The First Lady. "He sprang to his sleigh and to his team gave a whistle. And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim as he went out of sight"—what did he exclaim? Do you remember the very end of this? Do you? What?

Student. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

The President. Very good.

The First Lady. That's right. Exactly.

The President. Very good.

The First Lady. "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

The President. And that's what we want to say to you all: Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement Announcing a National Missile Defense Initiative

December 17, 2002

When I came to office, I made a commitment to transform America's national security strategy and defense capabilities to meet the threats of the 21st century. Today I am pleased to announce that we will take another important step in countering these threats by beginning to field missile defense capabilities to protect the United States as well as our friends and allies. These initial capabilities emerge from our research and development program and build on the test bed that we have been constructing. While modest, these capabilities will add to America's security and serve as a starting point for improved and expanded capabilities later, as further progress is made in researching and developing missile defense technologies and in light of changes in the threat.

September 11, 2001, underscored that our Nation faces unprecedented threats, in a world that has changed greatly since the cold war. To better protect our country against the threats of today and tomorrow, my administration has developed a new national security strategy and new supporting strategies for making our homeland more secure and for combating weapons of mass destruction. Throughout my administration, I have made clear that the United States will take every necessary measure to protect our citizens against what is perhaps the gravest danger of all: the catastrophic harm that may result from hostile states or terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them.

Missile defenses have an important role to play in this effort. The United States has moved beyond the doctrine of cold war deterrence reflected in the 1972 ABM Treaty. At the same time, we have established a positive relationship with Russia that includes partnership in counterterrorism and in other key areas of mutual concern. We have adopted a new concept of deterrence that recognizes that missile defenses will add to our ability to deter those who may contemplate attacking us with missiles. Our withdrawal from the ABM Treaty has made it possible to develop and test the full range of missile defense technologies and to deploy defenses capable of protecting our territory and our cities.

I have directed the Secretary of Defense to proceed with fielding an initial set of missile defense capabilities. We plan to begin operating these initial capabilities in 2004 and 2005, and they will include ground-based interceptors, sea-based interceptors, additional Patriot (PAC–3) units, and sensors based on land, at sea, and in space.

Because the threats of the 21st century also endanger our friends and allies around the world, it is essential that we work together to defend against them. The Defense Department will develop and deploy missile defenses capable of protecting not only the United States and our deployed forces but also our friends and allies. The United States will also structure our missile defense program in a manner that encourages industrial participation by other nations. Demonstrating the important role played by our friends and allies, as part of our initial missile defense capabilities, the United States will seek agreement from the United Kingdom and Denmark to upgrade early-warning radars on their territory.

The new strategic challenges of the 21st century require us to think differently, but they also require us to act. The deployment of missile defenses is an essential element of our broader efforts to transform our defense and deterrence policies and capabilities to meet the new threats we face. Defending the American people against these new threats is my highest priority as Commander in Chief and the highest priority of my administration.

Statement on the Resignation of Nick Calio as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

December 17, 2002

Nick Calio has been a valuable and trusted member of my administration since the day I took office. As my top staff representative on Capitol Hill, he has been at the center of major legislative victories, from landmark education reforms to historic tax relief for the American people. Members of Congress have always been able to rely on Nick's integrity, forthrightness, and civility. I have been able to count on his good judgment, his energy, and his loyalty. He has given 2 years of faithful service, and he leaves with my gratitude and friendship.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Voronin on U.S.-Moldovan Relations

December 17, 2002

We welcome the positive development and expansion of U.S.-Moldovan relations over the last 11 years. The relationship of our two countries is based on a shared commitment to promoting prosperity, freedom, and security in Moldova and throughout the region.

Together, we reaffirm our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, and underscore our determination to bring the Transnistrian separatist conflict to a peaceful resolution. We stress our continued commitment to the ongoing OSCE-led Transnistria talks and, in particular, to the Kiev Document as the basis for negotiation of a lasting settlement.

We note and welcome the Russian Federation's intention to implement fully its commitments undertaken at the OSCE's Istanbul Summit by completing the withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Moldova by December 31, 2003. We urge Transnistria's authorities to support unconditionally this process. If the Transnistrian authorities continue systematically to create obstacles for the disposal or withdrawal of Russian ammunition and military equipment, we are prepared to consider together with other concerned

countries targeted measures directed at the Tiraspol regime.

We recognize the progress that Moldova has made in transforming its economy in a free market direction, most notably in the agricultural sector. At the same time, we are cognizant of the economic challenges currently facing Moldova, including Moldova's particularly difficult debt situation. We are in complete accord that Moldova must strengthen its reform efforts, especially in the areas of privatization and the energy sector, and improve its investment climate. We agreed that with strong and clearly demonstrated performance under Moldova's IMF program, the United States would consider participating in a comprehensive plan to stabilize Moldova's debt outlook in the medium term.

We note and welcome Moldova's positive record since independence in conducting free and fair elections and in implementing democratic reforms. We pledge our commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and human rights and to observing them in practice. To this end, we underscore the vital importance of further progress in meeting OSCE election standards and in strengthening free and independent media in Moldova.

Finally, we reaffirm the importance of continued cooperation between the United States and Moldova in promoting regional security, including through our common efforts at combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; transnational crime; and trafficking in persons. We will deepen our cooperation to combat international terrorist threats to world peace both in our own countries and internationally. The United States appreciates Moldova's support in the global war on terrorism.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Signing the E-Government Act of 2002

December 17, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2458, the "E-Government Act of 2002." This legislation builds upon my Administration's expanding E-Government initiative by ensuring strong leadership of the information technology activities of Federal agencies, a comprehensive framework for information security standards and programs, and uniform safeguards to protect the confidentiality of information provided by the public for statistical purposes. The Act will also assist in expanding the use of the Internet and computer resources in order to deliver Government services, consistent with the reform principles I outlined on July 10, 2002, for a citizen-centered, results-oriented, and market-based Government.

Title II of this Act authorizes agencies to award "share-in-savings" contracts under which contractors share in the savings achieved by agencies through the provision of technologies that improve or accelerate their work. The executive branch shall ensure, consistent with applicable law, that these contracts are operated according to sound fiscal policy and limit authorized waivers for funding of potential termination costs to appropriate circumstances, so as to minimize the financial risk to the Government.

Title III of this Act is the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. It is very similar to title X of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which also bears the name Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 and which I signed into law on November 25, 2002. I am signing into law the E-Government Act after the enactment of the Homeland Security Act, and there is no indication that the Congress intended the E-Government Act to provide interim provisions that would apply only until the Homeland Security Act took effect. Thus, notwithstanding the delayed effective dates applicable to the Homeland Security Act, the executive branch will construe the E-Government Act as permanently superseding the Homeland Security Act in those instances where both Acts prescribe different amendments to the same provisions of the United States Code.

Finally, the executive branch shall construe and implement the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect sensitive national security, law enforcement, and foreign relations

information. In particular, consistent with my constitutional authorities and section 301(c) of this Act, the executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner that preserves the authorities of the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other agency heads with regard to the operation, control, and management of national security systems.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 17, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2458, approved December 17, was assigned Public Law No. 107–347. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on World Intellectual Property Rights

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

As required by the second proviso of the text of the resolution of advise and consent to ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and the World Intellectual Property Organization Performances and Phonograms Treaty, passed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on the status of the ratification of those treaties and related materials.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation Created by the Accumulation of Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in the Territory of the Russian Federation

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

December 18, 2002

President Bush. Welcome. I'll make a statement; the President will make a statement. That will be all we'll be doing today.

It is my great honor to welcome my good personal friend and a friend of the United States Jose Maria Aznar to the *Casa Blanca*. He is one of the world's strongest leaders when it comes to our mutual concerns about keeping the peace and fighting terror. He understands the first—he understands firsthand the consequences of terror activity. And today, Mr. President, we join you in the mourning of loss of life for a policeman in your country who was killed.

I also want to take a moment to express our deepest sympathy for the people of Galicia. We understand the concern and the

heartfelt worry about the effects of the oil-spill. President Aznar said, "*Nunca mas*," and I believe him. And I want to thank him for his leadership. And I'm glad he's back here.

Bienvenidos.

President Aznar. I begin by thanking President Bush very warmly for his very kind invitation once again.

I'd also like to thank President Bush for his solidarity and particularly for the cooperation shown to Spain by all levels of the U.S. administration in the light of the environmental disaster caused by the sunken oil tanker off the coast of Spain.

And can I say that in all the meetings I've had with representatives of your administration, we have received offers of unconditional support in helping cope with that disaster, and that support is ongoing and will continue. And I'd like to thank President Bush for the personal impetus that he has given in that cooperation.

Spain and the United States are working together within a framework of very solid and close cooperation and confidence. And I am determined that this will continue to be the case in the future in the fight against terrorism, in the fight against weapons of mass destruction, and in this overriding objective of defending a world of freedom, justice, and stability.

Gracias, senor.

President Bush. *Vamos a verles.*

Q. Why shouldn't Senator Lott resign, sir?

President Bush. *Vamos a verles en la fiesta en la noche.*

Q. *No comprende.*

President Bush. I said, I'll see you at the party tonight.

Q. I thought that meant questions.

President Bush. See you at the party tonight.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Peace Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

December 18, 2002

I welcome the signing of the peace agreement that brings an end to 4 years of civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I appreciate the strong leadership and commitment of President Kabila to form a transitional government in Congo. I further commend all parties on their willingness to make the tough decisions to ensure a peaceful and democratic future for the Congolese people.

This peace agreement offers the Congolese people a critical opportunity to build lasting peace in a unified Congo. The United States will continue to work with Congo's Government, the Congolese Liberation Movement, and the Congolese Rally for Democracy and Civil Society to move forward on implementing the agreement, which will result in national elections.

I thank President Mbeki for his leadership and efforts on behalf of peace in the Congo and throughout Africa. The United States looks forward to working with the African Union and the United Nations to help the Congolese people realize their dream for national reconciliation and growing prosperity.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Subsidy Budget Authority Request for Aloha Airlines, Inc.

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a $45 million Federal credit instrument for Aloha Airlines, Inc.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at $14 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 19.

Remarks at the Capital Area Food Bank

December 19, 2002

The President. Thanks. Be seated. Thank you very much. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. It is nice to be in a building full of food and full of love. We are honored to be here. Laura and I are here to send a message to our fellow Americans: We hope you love your neighbor as you would like to love—be loved yourself, that in this holiday season, let's commit ourselves to making it a season of service to others, others who might hurt, others who need food, others who can benefit from our kindness and generosity.

I love to tell people in this country—this is a fabulous country—in my judgment, the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And the reason why is because America is full of people who have got great hearts and great souls, people who are willing to serve something greater than themselves. My call for the holiday season is for people to serve your Nation by helping somebody in need, to join the—become a soldier in the army of compassion.

I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, for her service to our country. Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you being here. It's nice to see you; appreciate you keeping the potholes around the White House—[*laughter*]. I'm honored that members of the city council are here. Thank you all for coming. It's a—it is a fantastic tribute to your government that you support programs such as this food bank, center for—for the eradication of hunger in Washington, DC. I appreciate your strong statement and your deep concern.

I want to thank Lynn. Lynn Brantley is president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. I appreciate your heart. I appreciate your organizational talents. I mean, after all, this is the center for distribution to hundreds of outlets to feed people who are hungry. I mean, not only does Lynn care a lot, but she has obviously got a pretty good—a capacity to organize. She had me in peaches and spinach. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Greg TenEyck, who is the chairman. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I want to thank Barry Scher, who is the vice chairman. Thank you all for helping out and dedicating your time and efforts to make sure this program is viable and strong.

I think the thing we've got to understand here in the midst of all our plenty is that there are people who hurt, people who are hungry, people who need love, people who, when you hear the word "American Dream" have no idea what you're talking about. And if they do, they wonder whether or not that American Dream applies to them.

Our goal in America is to do everything we can to help those who hurt. And there is a role for government, no question about it. I like to say government can spend money, but government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government can help, but government should never crowd out the great compassion we find in programs such as this right here.

Washington, DC, hurt as a result of the attacks of September the 11th. The economy suffered around here. Therefore, there are more who hunger, and there are less who are giving.

The agencies involved with helping those in need, need our sustained help. This organization here attracts nearly 12,000 volunteers. I want to thank those who volunteer here. I want to thank you for what you do and thank you for being a part of the great fabric of compassion in America.

More Americans need to volunteer. There are ways to do so. The usafreedomcorps.gov on the Web page is the place to look. You

can call 1–877–USA–CORPS and find out ways that you can help. If you are interested in being a part of feeding those who hunger, this is a great place to come to.

But you can find out on the Web page other ways to help. People oftentimes say, "Well, I want to help. I don't know how." Well, we're trying to help you find out how. I hope people around this country realize that agencies such as this food bank need money. They need our contributions. Contributions are down. They shouldn't be down in a time of need. We shouldn't let the enemy affect us to the point where we become less generous. Our spirit should never be diminished by what happened on September the 11th, 2001.

Quite the contrary, we must stand squarely in the face of evil by doing some good. And part of doing good is not only dedicating your time and talent to help but to reach into your wallet so that those of us who hurt among us have a chance to heal and to be a part of the American experience.

Those who are poor, those who suffer, those who have last hope are not strangers in our midst. They're our fellow citizens. And in this time of joy, in the time of blessing, we've got to remember that. To make the season complete and the season whole, we must help those who are in need.

One of the things you've got to—I hope you'll recognize about me is sometimes I get a little wordy; I admit that. But I hope you view me as a man of action as well. We've got over 29 Federal agencies, people within the agencies who have been called upon to help. And they are helping. And I want to thank the Federal employees who have heard the call to love their neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself.

We all have a responsibility in high positions or low positions to follow through with our—with words and deeds. And this administration is committed to fulfilling the great promise of the American experience.

Again, I want to thank you all for coming. You know, we live in a blessed land. We live in a fantastic, fantastic country. The goals for this country are peace in the world, and the goals for this country are a compassionate American for every single citizen. That compassion is found in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

My call to the American people is, patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot in America is serving something greater than yourself, is serving the greatest country on the face of the Earth by helping a neighbor in need.

May God bless this institution. May God bless the volunteers and donors and people who have made Capital Food Bank thrive. May God continue to encourage the spirit of giving and love. And may God bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:11 a.m. in the warehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002

December 19, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4664, the "National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002." The Act authorizes appropriations for the National Science Foundation and modifies statutory authorities of the Foundation.

Section 5(f) of the Act purports to condition authorizations of certain appropriations on a subsequent determination by the Congress of the existence of successful progress by the executive branch toward specified goals. The executive branch shall construe the purported condition as advisory, since any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS* v. *Chadha*. Also, the executive branch shall construe and implement sections 8(10)(A), 9(a)(5), 11(b)(3), and 24 in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 14(a), 14(b) (amending section 201(a)(1) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998), and 18(d) call for

the submission by the executive branch of specified information or recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive, and to submit to the Congress such recommendations as the President judges necessary and expedient.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4664, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107–368.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 and For Other Purposes

December 19, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4883, an Act to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The executive branch shall construe sections 221(a)(4), 223(b), and 241(a)(2) of the Act as providing statutory bases for revocation of commissions or removal from service that are separate from, in addition to, and not in derogation of the President's constitutional authority to remove officers of the United States. The executive branch also shall construe sections 222 and 224 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to nominate and appoint candidates who are not the subject of recommendations under those sections.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4883, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107–372.

Executive Order 13281—Half-Day Closing of Executive Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government on Tuesday, December 24, 2002

December 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty for the last half of the scheduled workday on Tuesday, December 24, 2002, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

Sec. 2. The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty for the full scheduled workday on December 24, 2002, for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons.

Sec. 3. Tuesday, December 24, 2002, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., December 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 23.

Remarks Following Discussions With the Quartet Principals and an Exchange With Reporters

December 20, 2002

President Bush. The Vice President and I are honored to welcome the Quartet Principals to the Oval Office. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate so very much

your working with us to move the Israeli-Palestinian issue forward to a peaceful resolution of what has been a longstanding conflict.

I am strongly committed to the vision that I outlined on June the 24th. I believe it is in everybody's best interests that there be two states living side by side in peace. And this Government will work hard to achieve that. And I want thank you all for joining us in working toward that important vision.

There are some keys to moving forward. All of us must work hard to fight against terror so that a few cannot deny the dreams of the many; that we must encourage the development of Palestinian institutions which are transparent, which promote freedom and democracy; that we must work together to ease the humanitarian situation. There's—too many Palestinian moms and dads grieve over the future for their children because of hunger and poverty, lack of health care.

I appreciate the fact that the Quartet is working on what we call a roadmap. I view the roadmap as a part of the vision that I described. It is a way forward. It sets conditions. It's a results-oriented document. It is a way to bring people together so that they share their responsibilities.

We're assuming our responsibilities. The people in the neighborhood must assume their responsibilities. All nations must be committed to peace in order for us to achieve peace, must be committed to the vision of two states side by side in order to achieve the vision of living side by side.

The roadmap is not complete yet, but the United States is committed to its completion. We are committed to its implementation in the name of peace.

I want to thank you all for coming. We're on our holiday season. It is the season of peace on Earth. We confirmed that today in this meeting.

Kofi.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We've had a very good meeting this morning, and we are very close to finalizing the roadmap. And we believe that this is a roadmap that can help bring about the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side. It will require sacrifices from both sides, and it will demand parallel steps by both states for us to be able to move forward.

The Quartet has indicated that this roadmap and the approach of the parties has to be performance-driven; they have to perform. But it also has to be hope-driven. And I believe that this vision of two states living in peace and security will be the dream that will keep that hope alive. And all of us, working with our friends in the region, will work hard to ensure that we achieve this day within the 3-year period that we have set ourselves.

And Mr. President, we want to thank you for your support. And I think working together we can all be able to achieve this objective. Our intention is to release the roadmap and give it to the parties as soon as possible. And I think the communique we'll be putting out will say clearly what we intend to do next. So I will pause here. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. Good to see you, sir.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Hold on a second, please. Some of our guests will be speaking.

Foreign Minister Moller. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm very glad that you're so dedicated to the peace process in the Middle East. Your vision of the two states is very important. It's very important for European Union that the people in the area know they will get two states which have to live quietly, peacefully, side by side.

What we are trying to do is to pave the way to the two states. And that's why we have endorsed this roadmap and worked with this roadmap, because it's good thing with a vision, but you must know how to go there. And that is what we have in working it. And it has been a very good cooperation—the United States, Russia, the United Nations, and the European Union.

And I think it's very important that Israel knows it will live there forever in security. But they can only have that security if they give a political solution to the Palestinians, that the Palestinians know that their day will come where they get the state, which make them sure of their future. They both have a future, and we have to help them with a future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Igor. In *Ingles*? [*Laughter*]

Foreign Minister Ivanov. Thank you for receiving us, first thing.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Foreign Minister Ivanov. The second thing, before we had a lot of interest, good documents, but we couldn't implement. Now we have good document, and the most important thing is to implement. This is our main objective now. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Very good.

Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], quick question.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, your administration concluded yesterday that Saddam Hussein pretty much blew his last chance to come clean on his weapons of mass destruction. Are we now on a path to war?

President Bush. One thing is for certain. We will fulfill the terms and conditions of 1441.

The world spoke clearly that we expect Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. Yesterday's document was not encouraging. We expected him to show that he would disarm. And as the Secretary of State said, it's—it's a long way from there. And we're serious about keeping the peace. We're serious about working with our friends in the United Nations so that this body, ably led by Kofi Annan, has got relevance as we go into the 21st century. And yesterday was a disappointing day for those who have longed for peace.

Listen, I want to thank you all for coming.

Q. Trent Lott question?

President Bush. I would have, but we ran out of time. [*Laughter*] We ran out of time. They eat up your time. We had only so much time available. They ate up your time. I'm sorry. [*Laughter*]

Q. You can drop by later.

President Bush. We could do that; you're right. But we're due at Christmas parties.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Per Stig Moller of Denmark, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Senator Trent Lott's Decision Not To Seek the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 20, 2002

I respect the very difficult decision Trent made on behalf of the American people. As Majority and Minority Leader of the Senate, Trent Lott improved education for the American people; he led the way in securing tax relief; he strengthened our national security; and he stood for a bold and effective foreign policy. Trent is a valued friend, and a man I respect. I am pleased he will continue to serve our Nation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him on our agenda to make America safer, stronger, and better.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2002

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Christmas.

During Christmas, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As God's only Son, Jesus came to Earth and gave His life so that we may live. His actions and His words remind us that service to others is central to our lives and that sacrifice and unconditional love must guide us and inspire us to lead lives of compassion, mercy, and justice.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding throughout the Earth. As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, we are also grateful for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are working to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace and safety around the world.

This Christmas, may we give thanks for the blessings God has granted to our Nation and

in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity, and hope.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message.

Message on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa celebrates the traditional African values of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. From December 26th to January 1st, people of African descent gather to renew their commitment to these seven principles, known as *Nguzo Saba*, and give thanks for the blessings of family, community, and culture. Kwanzaa is also a time for Africans and African-Americans to honor their common heritage by participating in events based on early harvest gatherings called *matunda ya kwanza*, or first fruits.

As individuals and families join together during Kwanzaa, their joy enriches communities in the United States and across the globe. By uniting people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs, this holiday promotes mutual understanding and respect. These universal principles inspire us as we work together for a future of freedom, hope, and opportunity for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Kwanzaa, and for peace, happiness, and success in the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had intelligence briefings.

December 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. In the evening, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert for television broadcast on TNT at 8 p.m.

December 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

In the afternoon, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the President made remarks to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials to thank them for their service.

During the day, the President met with House leaders to discuss proposed legislation concerning prescription drugs for seniors.

December 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to discuss the legislative agenda for the upcoming session of Congress. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova.

December 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark B. McClellan to discuss FDA

initiatives to promote scientifically based information for consumers on foods and dietary supplements.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

The President announced the appointment of David Hobbs as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs and Ziad Ojakli as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janet Hale to be Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark Kent Ervin to be Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security.

December 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

December 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to congratulate him on his December 19 electoral victory. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss Senator Lott's announcement earlier in the day that he will not seek the Senate majority leader's position when Congress re-convenes on January 6, 2003.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 38, H.R. 308, H.R. 451, H.R. 706, H.R. 1712, H.R. 1776, H.R. 1814, H.R. 1870, H.R. 1906, and H.R. 1925

Released December 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a townhall meeting for future Department of Homeland Security employees hosted by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge

Statement by the Press Secretary: Iraqi Opposition Conference, London, December 2002

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3180, H.R. 3401, H.R. 3449, H.R. 3609, H.R. 3858, H.R. 4692, H.R. 4823, H.R. 5125, H.R. 5738, H.R. 2099, H.R. 2109, H.R. 2115, H.R. 2187, H.R. 2385, H.R. 2628, H.R. 2818, H.R. 2828, H.R. 2937, and H.R. 2990

Released December 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary commending the Federal Trade Commission for voting to create a national "Do Not Call" registry

Released December 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Congratulates President-Elect Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3048, H.R. 3747, H.R. 3909, H.R. 3954, H.R. 4129, H.R. 4638, H.R. 4682, H.R. 4750, H.R. 4874, H.R. 4944, H.R. 4953, H.R. 5099, H.R. 5436, and H.R. 5472

Released December 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the rescheduling of the President's upcoming visit to Africa

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 16

H.R. 38 / Public Law 107–332
Homestead National Monument of America Additions Act

H.R. 308 / Public Law 107–333
Guam War Claims Review Commission Act

H.R. 451 / Public Law 107–334
To make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Nebo Wilderness Area, and for other purposes

H.R. 706 / Public Law 107–335
Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002

H.R. 1712 / Public Law 107–336
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make adjustments to the boundary of the National Park of American Samoa to include certain portions of the islands of Ofu and Olosega within the park, and for other purposes

H.R. 1776 / Public Law 107–337
Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area Study Act

H.R. 1814 / Public Law 107–338
Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002

H.R. 1870 / Public Law 107–339
Fallon Rail Freight Loading Facility Transfer Act

H.R. 1906 / Public Law 107–340
Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park Addition Act of 2002

H.R. 1925 / Public Law 107–341
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Waco Mammoth Site Area in Waco, Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes

Approved December 17

H.R. 2099 / Public Law 107–342
To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide adequate funding authorization for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve

H.R. 2109 / Public Law 107–343
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach Park in Biscayne Bay, Florida, for possible inclusion in the National Park System

H.R. 2115 / Public Law 107–344
To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the Lakehaven Utility District, Washington

H.R. 2187 / Public Law 107–345
To amend title 10, United States Code, to make receipts collected from mineral leasing activities on certain naval oil shale reserves available to cover environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance costs incurred by the United States with respect to the reserves

H.R. 2385 / Public Law 107–346
Virgin River Dinosaur Footprint Preserve Act

H.R. 2458 / Public Law 107–347
E-Government Act of 2002

H.R. 2628 / Public Law 107–348
Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2002

H.R. 2828 / Public Law 107–349
Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act of 2002

H.R. 2937 / Public Law 107–350
To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a shooting range

H.R. 2990 / Public Law 107–351
Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 3180 / Public Law 107–352
To consent to certain amendments to the New Hampshire-Vermont Interstate School Compact

H.R. 3401 / Public Law 107–353
California Five Mile Regional Learning Center Transfer Act

H.R. 3449 / Public Law 107–354
To revise the boundaries of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and for other purposes

H.R. 3609 / Public Law 107–355
Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 3858 / Public Law 107–356
New River Gorge Boundary Act of 2002

H.R. 4692 / Public Law 107–357
To amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Establishment of the Andersonville National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes", to provide for the addition of certain donated lands to the Andersonville National Historic Site

H.R. 4823 / Public Law 107–358
Holocaust Restitution Tax Fairness Act of 2002

H.R. 5125 / Public Law 107–359
Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002

H.R. 5738 / Public Law 107–360
To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians

H.R. 2818 / Public Law 107–361
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land within the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area in the State of Idaho to resolve an occupancy encroachment dating back to 1971

Approved December 19

H.R. 3048 / Public Law 107–362
Russian River Land Act

H.R. 3747 / Public Law 107–363
Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Memorial Study Act of 2002

H.R. 3909 / Public Law 107–364
Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Act

H.R. 3954 / Public Law 107–365
Caribbean National Forest Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2002

H.R. 4129 / Public Law 107–366
To amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Central Utah Project, to redirect unexpended budget authority for the Central Utah Project for wastewater treatment and reuse and other purposes, to provide for prepayment of repayment contracts for municipal and industrial water delivery facilities, and to eliminate a deadline for such prepayment

H.R. 4638 / Public Law 107–367
To reauthorize the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project

H.R. 4664 / Public Law 107–368
National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002

H.R. 4682 / Public Law 107–369
Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site Boundary Revision Act

H.R. 4750 / Public Law 107–370
Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002

H.R. 4874 / Public Law 107–371
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to disclaim any Federal interest in lands adjacent to Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes in the State of Idaho resulting from possible omission of lands from an 1880 survey

H.R. 4883 / Public Law 107–372
To reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes

H.R. 4944 / Public Law 107–373
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Act

H.R. 4953 / Public Law 107–374
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to grant to Deschutes and Crook Counties in the State of Oregon a right-of-way to West Butte Road

H.R. 5099 / Public Law 107–375
To extend the periods of authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to implement capital construction projects associated with the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins

H.R. 5436 / Public Law 107–376
To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Oregon

H.R. 5472 / Public Law 107–377
Protection of Family Farmers Act of 2002

Resignations and Retirements

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